

## New Chief Justice

On January 6 the Michigan Supreme Court selected [Justice Stephen J. Markman](#) to serve as its new Chief Justice.

The Michigan Constitution requires the Court to select one of its members to serve as Chief Justice. ([Const 1963, Art 6, §3](#)) By court rule, the Justices select this person by majority vote at the Court's first meeting in each odd-numbered year. ([MCR 7.301\(A\)](#))



Justice Stephen J. Markman, Chief Justice of the Michigan Supreme Court

## Law Day 2017 May 1



Law Day 2017 marks the ratification in 1867 of the 14th Amendment, which advanced the rights of all Americans.

This special event will focus on the amendment's Due Process Clause.

- Activities highlighting student due-process rights related to discipline using grade-appropriate examples.
- Opportunities to meet with a justice, judge, or lawyer.
- Free curriculum materials.

Limited openings (9–10 a.m., 12–1 p.m., 2–3 p.m., and 3–4 p.m.) are available. Call 517-373-7171 to schedule for the Learning Center's Law Day event!

**Due Process (of Law)** – Fundamental rules that guarantee "fair play" in legal proceedings.

## Calendar

### March

8–9 [MSC Oral Arguments](#)

### April

11–13 [MSC Oral Arguments](#)

### May

1 [Law Day](#)

2–4 [MSC Oral Arguments](#)

17 [MSC Public Hearing](#)

29 State Holiday

### July

4 State Holiday

17–21 Moot Court for HS

## Summer Moot Court for High School July 17–21



Are your students considering legal careers? The Learning Center offers a summer moot court program in which participants argue a moot court case as if they are justices and attorneys at the Supreme Court. They learn skills that justices and lawyers use in court by meeting and working with a variety of legal professionals.

Students entering grades 10–12 in Fall 2017 and 2017 graduates are eligible. [Application](#) – Deadline: May 26.



## Lady Justice

Lady Justice and the objects she carries are ancient symbols for fair and equal treatment under law. Similar images date to ancient Mesopotamia, Egypt, Greece, and Rome. Today, many countries around the world recognize Lady Justice as a symbol for their courts.

Lady Justice's sword shows authority, including the power to punish injustice. It also implies being able to cut through obstacles to get to the facts of a case.

The balance (scales) represent weighing facts and evidence to decide a verdict. It also shows her duty to restore balance to society.

Although many people think of Lady Justice as wearing a blindfold, she can also be shown without one. Both versions highlight her impartiality. As in the phrase "justice is blind," the blindfold implies that she does not judge on appearance. Equally, examples like this statue (left) suggest that she uses her mind and all her senses to do justice.

Lady Justice, also known as Justitia, is the namesake for this newsletter.

In the Learning Center gallery she appears without a blindfold (left).

Her image on the seal of the Michigan Supreme Court (right) includes a blindfold.



## More Symbols

[Why Do Judges Wear Robes?](#), *Justitia*, Winter 2014

History of judicial robes in Michigan (page 2)

[Symbols of Authority](#), Michigan Supreme Court Learning Center

Ancient history of the robe and gavel

[State Symbols](#), SeekingMichigan.org

Includes a coloring guide and references to the laws/resolutions that designated each symbol

